

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

10

DECISION

TOPIC Public Owned Lakes Program - Watershed Eligibility

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the eligible publicly owned lakes list established by the Department in accordance with 571 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 31. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation manages the Public Owned Lakes Program, which makes funds available to private landowners to install approved permanent soil conservation practices in the watersheds above the identified publicly owned lakes. The Department is responsible to recommend to the Commission for designation those publicly owned lakes and watersheds for both natural lakes and constructed lakes utilizing criteria established in administrative rule and taking into account outside funding opportunities.

Funds for the Program come from appropriations to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and grants are available to private landowners mentioned above to fund 75% of total project costs. Funding for fiscal year 2008 is \$350,000.

In accordance with the rules, the Department makes the following recommendations for watershed eligibility in fiscal year 2008 to the Commission:

Constructed Lakes

The following constructed lake watersheds are recommended in accordance with the ranking criteria provided in administrative rule:

- Lake Geode, Des Moines and Henry Counties
- Williamson Pond, Lucas County
- Hawthorn Lake, Mahaska County
- Roberts Creek Lake, Marion County

The following constructed lake watersheds are recommended based on federal funding involvement, as identified:

- Lost Grove Lake, Scott County (a new lake planned for construction in fiscal year 2008 and the subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)
- Three Mile Lake, Union County (recently constructed, recommended to preserve its quality)
- Lake of Three Fires, Taylor County (subject of a comprehensive lake, watershed and park improvement project, funded from a variety of state and federal sources and the subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)

- Lake Icaria, Adams County (eligibility requested by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and significant local participation and support)
- Rock Creek Lake, Jasper County (subject of a comprehensive lake, watershed and park improvement project, funded from state sources and the subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)
- Lake Darling, Washington, Jefferson and Keokuk Counties (subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)
- Lake Macbride, Johnson County (subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)
- Viking Lake, Montgomery County (subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)
- Brushy Creek Lake, Webster County (subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)
- Badger Creek Lake, Madison County (subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding)

Lost Grove Lake watershed is recommended prior to lake construction because the staff believes its participation in the program will provide a unique opportunity to maximize water quality in the lake and protect the significant investment that soon will be made in the lake.

Natural Lakes

The interconnected Iowa Great Lakes system, to be considered a single watershed for funding, is recommended in accordance with the ranking criteria provided in administrative rule for natural lakes, and includes the following:

- West Okoboji Lake
- Center Lake
- Big Spirit Lake
- Little Spirit Lake
- East Okoboji Lake
- Upper Gar Lake
- Minnewashta Lake
- Lower Gar Lake

The following natural lake watersheds are recommended based on federal funding involvement, as identified:

- Storm Lake, Buena Vista County (subject of a state and local funded lake and watershed restoration project and an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding).
- Crystal Lake, Hancock County (subject of a state funded lake and watershed restoration project and an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding).
- Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County (subject of a comprehensive lake, watershed and park improvement project, funded from a variety of state and federal sources and the subject of an EPA Section 319 watershed project that utilizes soil erosion practice funding).

This FY2008 recommended list is the same as the list approved by the Commission for FY2007. Public Owned Lakes Program funds may be combined with EPA funds to effectively triple the value of program funds.

These recommendations have been sent to all Soil and Water Conservation Districts for informational purposes.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
June 14, 2007